(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Security considerations are taken into account while granting initial employment visa to foreigners seeking employment in India.

Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

†1763. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any feasibility report has been prepared for Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway proposed to be undertaken under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by when it will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Contract for consultancy services for preparation of Feasibility Report is expected to be awarded by March, 2007.

Cost escalation of NH projects

1764. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost escalation of NHAI projects in 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the break-up of such cost escalations in NHAI projects, State-wise;

(c) the action NHAI has taken to identify the reasons for cost escalation;

(d) whether it is a fact that senior officers rarely visit sites; and

(e) the steps proposed to carefully monitor all projects?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.